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vain attempt to find in them his accustomed nourishment. This curious fact seems to indicate that the attraction in such cases is not due to the odor of the flowers, but simply to their bright color ; and that the Greek story is not so improbable after all. C. D. M.

76. **Actæa, L.**—I have been interested this summer in the examination of the Actæa—both red and white—of which I saw hundreds of fine plants. It is impossible to mistake the one species for the other, without regard to color of berries.

The red berries (*A. spicata*) have very delicate, long, green pedicels, $\frac{3}{4}'$. The berries are a half larger than the white, and the stalks *are hollow, and easily crushed* with the thumb and finger.

The long pedicels give to the head much of the ovoid shape mentioned in the books as opposed to the oblong heads of the white.

A. alba has berries small, $\frac{1}{3}'$, and generally white, though I found several red, but it was as easy to distinguish them from *A. spicata* as if they had been white. The pedicels are $\frac{1}{2}'$ long, and very thick and red, and, in contrast with the white berries, produce a very pretty effect. The *stalks are solid*, occasionally having a fine thread-like hollow at the centre, but are *never easily crushed* with the fingers. This distinction is very remarkable. I probably examined more than 100 stalks, and brought some with me showing this difference. I found it everywhere the same.

The small *red* berries on thick, short, red pedicels were as clearly the *A. alba* as the white ones ; they had every characteristic but color, and that of a very different shade from the *A. spicata.*

This circumstance has made me doubt the observations on which is made the statement, "white berries sometimes occur on slender pedicels, and vice versa," for in my case, though "vice versa," they were not *A. spicata* in any sense. The white is generally of a more slender habit than the red, and taller, but I should find it difficult, if not impossible, to distinguish them except in fruit, and then it is impossible to confound them, and I make no doubt as to their being distinct and well-defined species. J. S. Merriam.

77. **White Partridge Berries.**—We found last week a good many *white* partridge-berries (*Mitchella repens*). We have never noticed them before, and would like to know whether they are common ; if so, we are not close observers. They were growing with the red berries, but not on the same vines. They were larger than most of the red ones. We thought at first that they were unripe berries, but they cannot be, for there were quantities of green ones which did not look at all like these. We find no mention of them in Gray's Botanies.

Canaan, Ct., Sept. 11th. S. W. A.

78. **Aspidium Thelypteris,** Swartz.—Mrs. L. A. Millington finds this fern to be quite fragrant in drying. She writes:—"I think we shall have to call it a variety, as not all that I have examined have proved to be fragrant. The fertile fronds are somewhat less rigid, and the whole plant softer and lighter colored. I find that it has been known among country people as *Beaver-meadow fern.* Marshy

bits of meadow smell deliciously of it in autumn. Before I knew of its fragrance, I have looked them over and over for vernal grass. I discovered that it was a fern four years ago at New Pond, in Elizabethtown (Essex Co., N. Y.)."

Fungi.—Mrs. M. adds :—"The season has been very wet, and the woods swarm with fungi. The leaves on the forest trees were blighted by them so much that whole patches of hillside covered with deciduous trees looked as if fire had run through them. I saw fine trees with foliage turned yellow, owing to a fungus with brown, powdery spores, which grew under the smooth bark of the lesser branches. The Balsam Fir has a curious fungoid growth which is so like in effect to Arceuthobium that it is hard to tell them apart till you handle them. I have not found the Arceuthobium on the Balsam as yet."

79. Willows and Poplars.—We are indebted to the Rev. H. G. Jesup for a very fine suite of specimens of the Amherst willows. Our own collectors seem generally to have neglected these two genera, and our materials have consequently been very meagre.

80. Rhyncospora nitens, Gray.—This southern form has been detected at Long Pond, Wading River, L. I., by Messrs. Young and Miller.

SALICACEÆ.

Salix, Tourn.—**S. candida**, Willd.; found in all our districts; N. Y.—**S. tristis**, Ait.; Long Island ; Staten Island ; South Amboy.—**S. humilis**, Marshall ; Hunter's Point, *Allen* ; Harlem River, *W. H. L.*; Glen Cove, *Coles.*—**S. discolor**, Muhl.; everywhere common ; N. Y.—**S. sericea**, Marshall; Westchester Co.; Bergen Point.—**S. petiolaris**, Smith ; reported from Westchester Co., and New Durham Swamp, but the specimens are not decisive.—**S. viminalis**, L.; cultivated in N. J.—**S. cordata**, Muhl.; rather common, particularly the narrow leaved forms.—**S. livida**, Wahl., var. **occidentalis**; rather common.—**S. lucida**, Muhl.; common.—**S. nigra**, Marsh; N. Y., banks of Harlem River and Westchester Co., where is found the var. **falcata.**—**S. fragilis**, L.; N. Y. and Westchester Co.—**S. alba**, L.; Glen Cove, *Coles* ; var. **vitellina** ; common on and about New York Island.—**S. Babylonica**, Tourn.; common in cultivation.—**S. myrtilloides**, L.; Budd's Lake, N. J., *Porter.*

POPULUS, Tourn.—**P. tremuloides**, Mchx.; common ; N. Y.—**P. grandidentata**, Mchx.; common ; N. Y.—**P. heterophylla**, L.; not uncommon ; swamps, Bloomingdale, *Torr. Cat.*—**P. balsamifera**, L.; var. **candicans**; common in cultivation.—**P. nigra**, L.; was formerly reported (*Torr. Cat.*) on the Hackensack road near Hoboken. We have heard nothing of it of late.—**P. dilatata**, Ait.; still lingers on old grounds.—**P. alba**, L.; much cultivated.

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The Club meets regularly the last Tuesday of the month in the Herbarium, Columbia College, at 7½ P.M.